

# the Almagest

April 17, 2003

No master debater John, please

Volume 43, Number 9

## Debate team wins national championship

Team members win varsity division and place second in novice, both best division speakers

by Jennifer Knafla  
Managing Editor

The LSUS debate team is the 2003 National Champion. The team won the overall sweepstakes award at the International Public Debate Association's annual convention and tournament April 11-13.

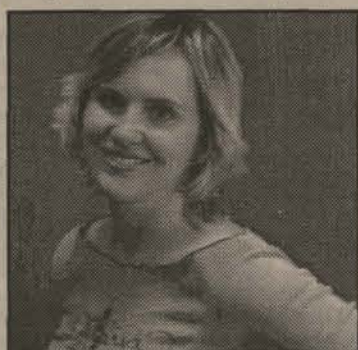
With 19 colleges represented from five states, LSUS entered the competition in fourth seed.

"It was a very tight competition between Louisiana Tech and us," said Mary G. "Jorji" Jarzabek, debate team coach. "But with our (LSUS's) overall performance at the elimination rounds, we just slap beat out Tech."

Placing second in the novice competition and first place novice speaker, Melissa Harris, freshman psychology major, said she was not nervous until the final round.

"The pressure was on," Harris said. Harris had competed in only one tournament prior to the nationals.

The team met two to three times a week for three weeks. In



Melissa Harris, freshman psychology major, took second place at the International Public Debate Association's annual convention and tournament.

preparing for the competition, team members had to stay abreast on a variety of current issues used as debate topics such as Iraq and Middle Eastern issues and whether or not dolphins should be used as mine hunters.

"We worked really hard all year for this," said Julie Petchak, senior journalism major, who placed as a

semi-finalist in varsity division and was ranked third place speaker.

A.J. Edwards, senior criminal justice major, won first place in varsity individual champion honors and first place varsity speaker for the tournament.

Matt Morris went into the elimination rounds ranked second in the tournament but lost in octofinals.

"It was my turn to lose," Morris said. "After all, my opponents had been doing it all day."

Michael Strong, junior computer science major, reached octofinals. Also participating as varsity debaters were Kamel Benyahia, freshman political science major, and Alan Trichell, junior journalism major.

In the novice division, Lakesha Mosely, senior public relations major, was a quarter-finalist and ranked second speaker; Erika Eakin, senior journalism major, was an octo-finalist; and Ebony Holliday, criminal justice/political science major, also competed in novice.

"There was not one category of awards in which LSUS's name was

not called at least once," Jarzabek said. Team members serving as judges and support staff were Jessica Beech, Sammie Bell, Lacey Spencer and J Willoughby.

Bringing home a big victory cup trophy, Jarzabek said the win was an emotional one for her. This win is the first time LSUS has won a national sweepstakes award.

"I have never gotten misty eyed, ever before at a competition," Jarzabek said. "It was an emotional moment. I am proud for them and for LSUS."

Jarzabek said that LSUS has always had quality debaters. However, she said that credit should be given to the student body. The student activities fee increase allowed the team to recruit and carry more members to debate competitions.

"We've always had the quality. Now we have the quantity and the quality," Jarzabek said.

Looking to next semester's debate season, Jarzabek said that trying for two national wins in a row is definitely something the team will be working toward.

## SOC elects officers for next year

by Angela Gerhls  
Copy Editor

Former secretary-treasurer Katherine Robbins is the 2003-2004 Student Organization Council president.

The officer elections were held at the April 11 SOC meeting. The council nominated officers at its March 7 meeting.

Running unopposed, Robbins received a unanimous vote. However, some student organizations discussed Robbins' character as sometimes coming "off a little pushy." As a seasoned officer, Robbins hopes to enlighten any new officers to "help SOC run more efficiently and be more organized."

Many SOC representatives voiced their confidence in Robbins' abilities as SOC president. Current president Robert Suttle believes she is more than capable of handling the responsibility.

Jennifer Siskron, who is in her second year at LSUS, was elected as vice president. She is involved in several campus organizations, such as the Biology Club, Chemistry Club and Phi Eta

## Failey wins POY again

by Michael Scott  
Graphics Editor



Photo by Matt Morris  
Psychology instructor Rhonda Failey thanks the students for her third consecutive win of the Professor of the Year Award.

Psychology instructor Rhonda Failey has been named the SGA Professor of the Year for the third straight year.

The award ceremony was held in the LSUS ballroom on April 10 during Common Hour. The ceremony recognized not only Failey but also 23 other instructors who were nominated.

Each nominee was given a gift on behalf of LSUS and allowed to share his or her thoughts on being a candidate for Professor of the Year.

"It's an honor to be nominated for the Rhonda Failey award," said John Vassar, assistant professor of humanities. "It's wonderful. The students are why we're here."

"This feels great," said Dr. Michael Leggiere, assistant professor of history and social science. "I've been teaching on the college

level for 11 years, and this is the best award you can get."

The SGA has given out this award for the past three years, conducting student voting via the LSUS Blackboard.

"The voting is always very close," said Dr. Gloria Raines, SGA adviser. "I wish I could share the comments I've heard about each teacher. They're reaching out and making a difference."

Voting was so close this year that the usual top 20 professors was extended to 24, and Beverly Burden, associate professor of biological sciences, was declared a runner-up, after being one vote shy of a tie with Failey.

"I'm not going to cry this year," said Failey, "I'm absolutely overwhelmed. This is the most incredible honor I've ever received. To get it again is fantastic. I love what I do."

Donna Austin	Jim Evans	Jeff Key	Sura Rath
Diane Boyd	Rhonda Failey	Michael Leggiere	Carl Smolinsky
Beverly Burden	Sharon Green	Rogers Martin	Carlos Spaht
Lisa Burke	Wayne Gustafson	Wanda Mosely	John S. Vassar
Megan Conway	Wolfgang Hinck	Bill Pederson	Cheryl White
Tom DuBose	Chengho Hseigh	Helen Powell	Amy Oaks Wren

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Familiar face  
on campus  
dies in  
violent attack



Spring Fling  
brings LSUS  
music, beer  
and free food

by Ashley Speckman

LSUS will sponsor Spring Fling activities April 24-25. A mix of comedy, music and dancing will be the cornerstone for this year's event.

Planned by the Office of Student Activities, the event will be paid for with money from the student activities fee.

"Spring Fling gives students the opportunity to get involved," said Jeremy Chreene, Student Activities Board member. "We are trying to provide a chance for students to relax before exams begin."

Comedian Mike Epps, known for his roles as Day-Day in "Next Friday" and Reggie in "All about the Benjamins," will be performing at the Strand Theater on April 24 at 8 p.m.

Tickets for the show are available through the LSUS Bookstore and the Strand Theater. General admission is \$20. Discounted tickets are available for LSUS students, faculty and staff in the Bookstore.

The annual Battle of the Bands will begin with hip hop and R&B bands performing on Thursday night, with Pop and Rock competing on Friday.

The Battle of the Bands, a competition featuring area bands, will begin at 10 a.m. and will continue until all bands have played. Each band will play for 30 minutes with about five bands performing each day. Admission to the battle is free, and some student organizations will be setting up booths selling food and various other items.

On Friday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., there will be a crawfish boil for students, and for those that don't enjoy crawfish there will also be hamburgers available. Beer will also be available for purchase to students 21 years or older with correct identification.



# The Almagest

("al-meh-jest". n): Arabic: "The Majestic"  
any of several medieval treatises on a branch of knowledge  
(as the 9th century Arabic translation of Ptolemy's  
Greek work on astronomy)  
- Webster's Third New International Dictionary

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# From the editor

## ■ Your support can help us produce a better paper and a better university.

Because we have only a couple of issues left, we wanted to talk one last time about running a student newspaper.

A student newspaper can be one of the highlights of a university.

When a student newspaper is done well, it gives the campus something to talk about and brings regional and national recognition to a university.

As a member of the debate team, I have been able to travel to several other campuses and I always make a point to pick up the student paper when I can.

One thing I've noticed is that there is a big difference between a newspaper on a commuter campus and a campus with a sense of real community.

A problem presented to us in the Almagest is that the weekly format makes it hard to do timely news.

Often the most important things happen after our deadline, and the only ones left around to write the story are the editorial staff.

A lot of the student leaders on this campus complain that the biggest problem on the campus is apathy.

So we've found ourselves talking about that a lot.

But apathy is boring, and talking about it doesn't seem to do anyone any good.

What the school really needs is a developed sense of community.

As the school paper, we try to encourage this but we can only report on what really happens.

And as things stand now, not much really does happen around here.

We can't expect everyone to be as active as us so it doesn't do us any good to use them as an excuse for the things we think are wrong with this campus.

What do we base our judgment of LSUS on?

The administration of the university is constantly engaged in different methods of measuring the quality of the university.

One of the devices used to measure this is student evaluations of professors. But that only covers part of what affects us as students.

Retention and recruitment problems have been the major concern of the administration for a while.

Are we wrong?  
Then write a letter  
explaining why.

e-mail us at

[almagest@pilot.lsus.edu](mailto:almagest@pilot.lsus.edu)

or stop by Bronson Hall 344

If you don't contact us, who will?

So surveys have been given to students to measure their satisfaction with various aspects of the university, from the library to (gasp) student media.

But what do these numbers really tell us? Students go to the university for different reasons.

And while some of us may be dissatisfied with one aspect of the school, others may find the same aspect to be their favorite thing.

But we wonder how fair this kind of assessment is.

After all, different universities have different target audiences.

When Bobby Jindal spoke to one of Dr. Johnette McCrery's mass communications classes about education and health care several weeks ago, he made a number of very good points.

He said that different universities in the Louisiana system have different strengths, and by focusing on these strengths, we can make education in Louisiana better.

Rather than try to apply the same standards to all schools, perhaps we should try to focus on what differentiates us from other universities.

And this is where student media can make a big difference.

The Almagest is different from a lot of student papers. Sometimes that is a good thing and sometimes not.

However, The Almagest is a voice students can use to address their concerns about the university.

Unfortunately, some would like to use that voice to make personal attacks, and because of our sensitivity to the issues of libel, we cannot print every student complaint.

Often we cannot address the problems in the school because we cannot get anyone to go on record about them.

Most of our editorial staff is graduating this May, including me.

I've been an editor for the paper for four years and have seen the university go through a lot of changes. Sometimes we've done a good job covering these changes and sometimes we probably haven't been able to tell all we should have.

But working for the paper has given me a good understanding of how the university works, as well as experience producing a publication.

The Almagest can be an important part of producing a sense of community on this campus, but only with student support.

The paper can highlight the strengths of the university but also has a duty to illuminate the weaknesses so that these problems can be solved.

This is why we encourage everyone to get involved.

In the fall, Candice Leone will be taking over and looking for a new staff.

Faculty and staff can help her make this paper even better by giving her story tips, and students are encouraged to come write for the paper.

Even students who aren't interested in journalism can get involved, because she'll need a business manager. Most importantly, we need dedicated reporters who are willing to take extra steps to get a story.

A good student newspaper is not only a record of the accomplishments of the university but an accomplishment in itself.

By helping give direction to our student paper, you can help guide our school to a more promising future.

-mm

## Clarifications

Japan doesn't have a military, besides some coast guard. They are protected by us. North Korea has a huge military. We think it is funny how some people look at the media and see a liberal bias and others look at it and see a conservative bias. Maybe the bias is with you. The end of the semester is coming and it kind of freaks us out. Matt's four year plan is about to end and then he has to face "real life." He's trying to find a job, so if anyone knows of anything, give us a holler. This weekend while Matt was away all hell broke loose with the rest of the staff so if everyone could send them prayers/good karma it would be appreciated. Eight pages doesn't seem to go as far as it used to.



# Letters to the editor

## Domestic politics may be real site of Iraqi war

**Dr. Lloyd Klein,**  
Assistant professor,  
history and social sciences

The conflict in Iraq is heading into a transitional phase wherein peacekeeping concerns will supplant the well-orchestrated attack against Saddam Hussein's political administration.

The media, through impressive technological advances, has brought us impressive live reports from Kuwait City and succeeded in charting military progress into Baghdad.

The images, particularly symbolic photos wherein one of Hussein's statues was toppled, have been breathtaking.

But real questions still remain in an ongoing political game surrounding the war.

Executive branch officials including President George Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Attorney General John Ashcroft, and a host of others are coordinating military and public opinion efforts.

The administration targeted Hussein as a major threat to world security and subsequently ended his regime.

The world waits for confirmation of Hussein's survival or demise following a targeted blast on a location where he was present.

Meanwhile, the search for justice following 9/11 remains

unfulfilled in a climate of terrorism within the United States.

President Bush continually delivers the mantra that national security is at stake, should we ignore "threats" from Hussein and like dictators.

There is a persistent political message that the time to act is now and any dissenters are guilty of treason and constitute a non-patriotic element within American society.

In fact, Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins, motion picture stars and protesters against the war, were impacted by this sentiment when a planned Baseball Hall of Fame program was canceled as a result of the stars' views.

Democrats, and even some Republican spokespersons, expressed mixed feelings that a real threat against American safety existed.

In fact, several pronged arguments were presented in this regard.

In one case, posited arguments state that the United States was not equipped to fight a major incursion following the expense of time and monies spent in a fruitless campaign against Afghanistan.

Additionally, Osama Bin Ladin is still at large, and the world is not in greater peril for the situation.

Inevitably, Iraq and Afghanistan are the first steps in a protracted war on terrorism that shows signs of involving Syria and Iran.

The war on terrorism is clearly reminiscent of a decades-long assault against communism or

socialist-directed governments.

The "war that never ends" can potentially refocus attention onto a modern crusade that will continue through future generations.

The impact of this crusade will eventually undermine the economic and political structure of United States governmental operations.

The late President Lyndon Johnson found out the hard way that "guns and butter" (or war and domestic economic issues) results in budget deficits and a weakened economic system.

President Bush is particularly faced with Johnson's situation as his tax plan attempts to stimulate the demand side economic base.

But massive economic deficits will particularly deepen further, the longer that combat siphons budgetary appropriations.

What is the final answer in our analysis of this dilemma? War with Iraq and other "terrorist" countries will produce consequences within our economic infrastructure.

A prolonged conflict (which is doubtful at this stage) may stimulate diminished citizen support for the combat efforts.

Iraq's possession of "weapons of mass destruction" has not yet been adequately documented.

As a result, credibility of the American Government is on the line — particularly if the Iraq battle fails to yield the promised results of stabilization in the Middle East.

Congressional realization of these factors and the revitalization of the Democratic Party as we head to-

ward the 2004 Presidential and Congressional elections are definite possibilities.

But in the short term, we are truly between Iraq and a hard place.

## Iraqi liberation should have come from Iraqi people, not the U.S.

**Umar Hussain,**  
Biology major

It was a great joy seeing the Iraqi people being liberated last week and seeing Saddam Hussein's reign of terror come to an end.

However, it would have been even sweeter had Iraq been liberated by its own people and on its own terms (and without the deaths of even more Iraqi civilians) in the fashion of the people of Serbia overthrowing Slobodan Milosevic.

But they had no means of doing so, due to the crippling U.N. sanctions that had been placed on them; these sanctions were meant to weaken Saddam Hussein, but they only gave him a stronger hold over the Iraqi people.

But that's all in the past now (hopefully).

The bottom line is that the people of Iraq deserve to be free of any occupation, including that of King George II.

On Fox News (which we all know is Fair and Balanced) they were saying that there will be a gold rush in Iraq of American

corporations, and that America will use Iraq in an attempt to gain a vote in OPEC.

Most people say that America has never been imperialistic — although there was that whole Cold War thing during which the CIA created Saddam's regime in Iraq (and many other similar regimes all over the world).

The concern shared by many around the world is that Iraq was only the beginning — and we are already seeing growing hostilities between the United States and Syria.

And remember, it was George W. Bush who said that "we are going on a crusade," (whatever that means).

This whole notion of pre-emptive strike has gotten many people around the world stirred up.

Already, India is talking about attacking Pakistan on the same basis that the United States used to go into Iraq, and I bet Japan might think the same and go into North Korea.

We would no doubt condemn most of these countries for doing the same thing as us?

Some of us believe that America needs to police the world, but as we have seen in places such as New York City and Los Angeles (cities in which there is widespread police brutality and corruption), sometimes those who are in the position to uphold the law are the ones who abuse the system the most.

But then again, that's just my opinion... I could be wrong.

## A hypothetical professor asks his students to ponder a while

**Quinton Bell**  
History Major  
Guest Columnist

A student in a class looks ever so closely at the board.

His professor steps away and a couple of hands in the class rise ever so enthusiastically.

The professor did not recognize the students just yet; he wanted a certain level of thought to be placed into their answers.

The pause which had interrupted class brought on a level of anticipation.

The student who had stared at the chalkboard so intently now turned slowly to his neighbor, but he noticed the same look of bewilderment on her face.

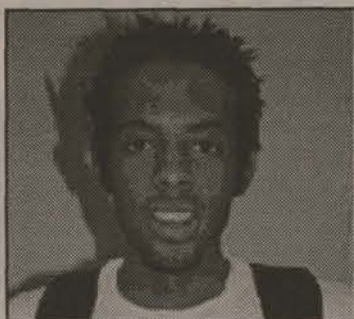
A few more hands went into the air, yet the professor did not recognize any of these students, he merely stood at his podium and looked out into the class.

Suddenly, another professor stuck his head into the door; he had wanted to ask a question about a meeting scheduled for later that day.

However, he immediately noticed the question on the board, and his question left him.

He slid into the class and took a seat next to the door. After noticing his interest, the students took on a more serious look.

They realized that the question was not one with a single answer.



Their complete attention was being placed on this question of "What is America?"

The professor, seeing that the class was ready, announced that he wanted to answer questions about the question before he allowed the answers to come in.

So it began, the professor in front of class first recognized his colleague by the door.

He asked him whether or not he wanted to see him outside of class.

This professor said that he could wait and asked is it okay for him to sit in on this discussion.

The original professor said that he did not mind and began acknowledging the students.

The student who had been so keen on watching the board asked whether the question was of ideals or actions. Instead of answering, the professor allowed a student to answer who had immediately thrown his hand up when the question had come off the lips of the previous stu-

dent.

He said that it is impossible to separate America's ideals from its actions; the two must be considered intertwined to answer the question.

Without recognition, another student began speaking; he said that there are different actions that do not agree with our ideals.

The professor did not seem to mind this outburst and countered that the conflict between America's ideals and actions are precisely why an answer cannot be rendered so easily.

Although there were other students who wanted to be recognized, the professor had once again noticed his colleague's desire to speak.

He asked him if he had wanted to add to the discussion. The professor by the door had indeed been waiting to say a few words. So he now addressed the class and told them that America is as ambiguous as a mafia boss saying "forget about it."

He said that the thing that he loves is that at any given number of years a group of Americans can bring their vision of America into a reality.

In spite of the fact that we do things that are not within our ideals, we still have these ideals and must strive for them.

Whenever someone's vision deviates from our ideals, we can send them and their vision out of office.

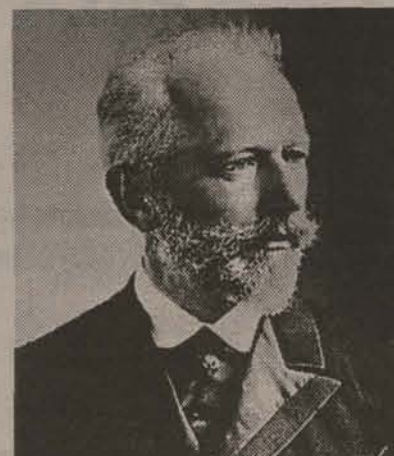
This professor then left the class, and the discussion went on as does America and what it means.

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## SOC: Lincoln Society approved after debate

Continued from Pg. 1

Sigma.

"I'm a very tedious person," Siskron said. "I like things to be a certain way. I will make sure things are always complete and (done) in a timely fashion."

The new secretary-treasurer is junior accounting major Terrance Neal. Neal is the current SOC representative for the Association of Student Accountants and will be graduating in December 2004.

Neal received a unanimous vote after Lindsey Reed announced that she retracted her nomination.

Also, three new student organizations were recognized at

Friday's meeting: Sigma Nu, now a nationally-recognized fraternity working toward becoming a national chapter, Greek Council, a marketing/benefits group for all Greek organizations on campus, and Lincoln Society, an organization to promote student writing and publication.

There was a great deal of debate as to whether Lincoln Society should be considered a publication or an organization. However, SOC representatives voted unanimously after one member suggested that since the "Almagest" is considered an organization, Lincoln Society should as well.

## MBA alumni return to answer questions of current students in master's program

by Becky Mayo

LSUS MBA alumni will return to campus to participate in a round table discussion on April 17 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. The event will be held in the Business/Education Building in Room 100. They will share their college and job-related experiences and answer questions about obtaining an MBA.

The returning alumni work in various fields in the Shreveport-Bossier area. They are as follows: Caroline Newell in accounting at Heard, McElroy and Vestal; James Collins in accounting at Cope, Evans and Peterson; Erika Gonzales-Rice in marketing at Hollywood Casino; and Steve Conrad in medicine at LSUHSC. They will all be discussing why having an MBA has been helpful to them.

The Career Center and MBA Association are sponsoring the event. Both organizations say that the panel discussion should clarify any concerns that students may have about the MBA program.

Jennifer Carter, assistant director of the Career Center, said that the alumni will be well-prepared for the discussion.

"The alumni have been given

specific questions to answer and will also be taking questions from the audience," Carter said. "They are excited to return to LSUS and hope that they will be helpful to any student considering getting his or her MBA."

Erika Gonzales-Rice, a data analyst at Hollywood Casino, is one alumni who will be on the discussion panel. She said that she has a lot that she wants to share with MBA students.

"Sometimes our expectations can be exactly what we think, but sometimes our expectations can be very wrong," Gonzales-Rice said.

Gonzales-Rice, who graduated in December of 2002, also says that she wants to teach students something realistic about the business world.

Burt Harper, a graduate of business administration, is now an LSUS MBA student. He says that having an alumni panel will be helpful to him and any other MBA student.

"When you are working on your master's degree, it's encouraging to know how MBA's have helped former students," Harper said. "I want to know what luck they have had in the business world and what obstacles they've had to

overcome."

According to Carter, the panel of alumni will answer Harper's questions and many others.

They will discuss the hiring environment for MBA's in Shreveport, skills they use most often, and internships that affected their decision to get their MBA's.

Carter also said that they need students to attend the discussion so that more events like these can take place and be successful.

Right now the Career Center is conducting a survey on their Web site concerning these types of events.

"We are trying to figure out what students want from the Career Center so that we can make changes where necessary," said Carter.

The online survey states that the Career Center needs to know the desires, needs and expectations of students and alumni so that improvements can be made.

They want to hear thoughts and concerns about various aspects of the center.

In order for students to complete the survey, they should access job postings through e-Recruiting on the career center Web site.

## Campus Crime Blotter

April 2

9:30 a.m. The director of the University Court Apartments filed a complaint against a student who she said presented falsified receipts to the UCA when asked why her balance wasn't paid. The student said her father had paid the balance and faxed over receipts to prove it. The receipts appeared altered, and were presented to SPD for investigation.

April 9

4:15 p.m. A student was taken to Schumpert Hospital from the UCA after being accidentally shot with a paintball gun by her roommate's boyfriend. She said she had been standing in the kitchen of their apartment at the time. The roommate's boyfriend was playing with the paintball gun when it accidentally fired.

## REPORTS OF ARMY SIGHTINGS IN YOUR AREA



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>> DATE: Thursdays  
10:00 am - 11:00 am

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# Campus icon 'passes'

by J Willoghby  
Entertainment Editor

You've seen her on campus, always ready with a smile to brighten your day.

If you had a problem, she'd stop what she was doing and lend you an ear. When you needed an extra dime for the vending machines, she'd give you a dollar.

And there was no one on campus that could better help you prepare for a test.

She was like a campus jack-of-all trades. Some may have even thought of her as their guardian angel.

In some way, this beautiful

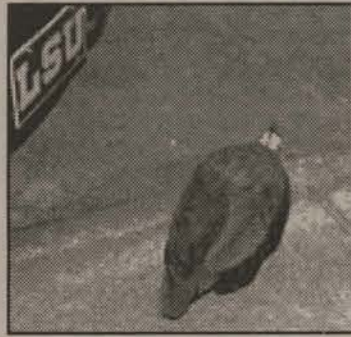
creature touched us all. Well, maybe not touched. And she probably never did any of the aforementioned things either.

But she definitely pecked near us all. That's right. Ginny the Guinea hen is no more.

On Monday, March 31 at 8:06 a.m., Athletic Director Doug Robinson witnessed the brutal slaying of Ginny by a "vicious hawk."

There will be a little less spark in everyone's lives without your beautiful...no, that won't work...umm...smiling...no, that won't work either...umm...weird turkey-like face.

You'll be missed. Say "what up" to Biggie and Pac.



**Ginny the Guinea  
?- March 31, 2003**

# Zimmerman retires as speech pathology program closes down

by Jeff-David Gray

While the university braces to compensate for the loss of another academic major, the communications department prepares to say goodbye to a legendary instructor.

One instructor affected by the shuffle in the university system is retiring professor of speech pathology, Dr. Barbara Zimmerman.

Zimmerman, who has taught at LSUS for three years, will be retiring this year after decades of university teaching.

"I'm retiring in that I don't have to teach anymore," Zimmerman said. "I'm sure I'm not going to retire from all work."

Zimmerman, a native of Portsmouth, Ohio, first moved to Shreveport in 1972 to head the Mollie Webb Center. After the center joined with the LSU Medical Center, Zimmerman began work as an instructor at the medical center.

After working 19 years at LSU Medical Center this mother of three actually decided to retire.

That was four years ago, and Zimmerman is still working.

A chain of events lead to Zimmerman's presence at LSUS today. First the speech pathology program received a grant.

Zimmerman says that after LSUS received an endowment for the speech pathology program she was convinced to come to the

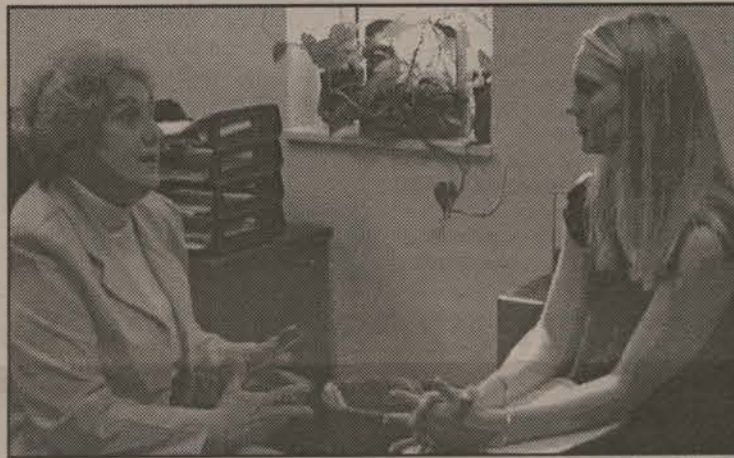


Photo by Jenny Knafla

Dr. Barbara Zimmerman, associate professor in communications, advises Gina Guy, senior speech pathology major, of the opportunities in her field of study.

university to help with the speech pathology department and thenewly acquired professional equipment.

Zimmerman received her doctorate degree in 1968 from Ohio University and was the first speech pathologist in Pontiac, Mich.

Zimmerman's departure comes just as university officials announced the closure of the speech pathology department.

Dr. Jack Nolan, communications department chair, said the program is closing because of a decline in enrollment.

According to Nolan this spring will see the last graduates of the program at LSUS.

However, Nolan said some classes will still be offered by the department such as medical terminology and voice and articulation.

"There is still a need for students who want to take voice and articulation to get rid of an accent or speech problem," Nolan said.

"I think it's a major loss for the university, and it will hurt them in the long run because they're losing potential students," said Amanda Bell, junior speech pathology major.

Zimmerman said that what she will miss most about LSUS is the students and the speech clinic that the university held for local children.

# Major Declaration Day gives students a glimpse at options

by Jeff-David Gray

LSUS students received a little help in the decision making process from academic departments.

On March 20, colleges and disciplines from across the campus came together in a one-day event called Major Declaration Day. Representatives from all academic departments, as well as student organizations that support the academic departments, were in attendance.

Director of Career Services Brian Hirsch said March was a great time to host the event because it is Career Month in Louisiana.

"It's just a few weeks before registration, so now is the time," Hirsch said. "We're hoping students will have the opportunity to learn in this one-stop place."

There was a large turnout from departments, occupying some 43 tables, filling the UC ballroom floor.

"I'm impressed by the turnout from the different departments," said Lonnie McCray of the general studies and English department. "It is good to see this type of event to support students."

However, McCray who at the time had received only two visitors 40 minutes into the event said, "I'm not sure if this is the best way to reach those who are undecided. Possibly I think this event could work better if tied into another event."

Jane Allison, project coordinator for the campus Small Business Center also stated that most of the student turnout was during Common Hour and suggested that participation waned as the event grew older. Allison also offered compliments for the event and event organizers for pulling off the event. Students stopping by the Small Business booth had a slightly different idea of what they were going to do post-graduation.

"A lot of students do explore. People say I want to get my degree but one day I want to open my own business," Allison said. The center has been offering its resources and support for LSUS students and the community since the mid 1980s.

"We think it will help with retention; if students find a niche group they are likely to stay," said Jennifer Carter, event organizer.

**"A lot of students do explore. People say I want to get my degree but one day I want to open my own business."**

Jane Allison,  
Small Business  
Center  
project coordinator

Carter also pointed out that this is the first time that every department was represented under one roof for an event designed to help students decide on a path.

According to Carter, two students changed their majors that day. Though the number may seem small, Carter suggested that that is still no need to panic about the success of the event.

Instead it is important that the students get the information, said Carter. "We don't want them to make a rash decision, we want them to make good decisions."

Overall, about 100 students signed in on the sign-up sheet at the event. However, organizers say that they are sure more people visited that did not sign in. The average table spoke with six students. Organizers also stated that they hit their target audience with some 82 percent of those in attendance signing in as freshman and sophomores.

According to a student survey issued by the Career Center, the top two reasons students visited the event was to learn about possible majors and careers and to meet with faculty and staff. Organizers are reporting that 43 percent of those surveyed had expectations met.

For future events Carter says the challenge will be figuring out a better time to host the event. She is also pondering changing the location by possibly having the event in the more populated, and accessible downstairs area of the UC. Organizers also plan to use the campus public relations group, PRSSA, to help promote next year's event.

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# Student musician Leighton LaBorde balances academics by day and performances at night

by Angela Gerhls  
CopyEditor

Leighton LaBorde has been referred to as "the Grizzly Adams" of the local music scene. He may look rugged on the outside, but in person he's one of the most laid-back guys you could meet. Behind all that hair is a smile that can make the most tense person feel relaxed, a brain that some people would never expect him to have and a talent that has impressed many LSUS students and professors alike.

This 29-year-old said he's been playing music for more than a decade and his easy-going guitar-playing style and smooth voice have dazzled the local artists who go out to jam with him.

Leighton's LSUS following centers around the science department, since he already has one bachelor's of science degree in biology and is currently attending LSUS once again to attain another B.S. degree in environmental science.

One faculty member who frequently appears at Leighton's performances is Dr. Steven Lynch of the biological sciences department. Lynch is not only impressed with Leighton's musical ability, but his progress in school as well.

"Leighton is an amazing musi-

**"Leighton is an amazing musician. It is a pleasure for me to get up and play with him."**

Dr. Steven Lynch,  
professor of biological sciences

cian," Lynch said. "It is a pleasure for me to get up and play with him. He's got his act together about school; he really has. Since I've known him, he's really worked hard and done well."

Two junior biology majors, Kendall Hennard and Louellen Harper, both said they love going to Leighton's shows, and they love hearing him play. Harper even gave herself the title "Leighton Groupie."

Even LSUS alumni frequent Leighton's shows. Marcus Lukens, who got his master's degree from LSUS, said he considers it "an honor" to perform with Leighton. He and Lynch have been playing music with Leighton for nearly two years now.

Leighton said he doesn't write lyrics much when collaborating with other people, but mostly concentrates on the musical side of song creation.

"Usually when I'm working with other people, they already have their basic chords and lyrics, then we'll sort of try to shape things from there...do things to the structure, or add another chord, or add a mean lick here," Leighton said. So even if he's not writing the song, he still has "a hand in the creativity."

Aside from the solo shows at Diver Down every Thursday from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m., Leighton also plays guitar and sings with D'Armond. Lead singer Michael D'Armond attends Leighton's solo shows, where they get to showcase some of their original material.

Leighton has recorded three CDs with D'Armond but has yet to record any solo material.

"I've done some stuff solo, but mostly demos. Nothing REAL," he said with a laugh.

His Diver Down shows have been known to attract quite a crowd

in the earlier part of the night. The only ones left after midnight are the die-hard Leighton fans, and they'll play and sing until closing time.

Faculty members said to make appearances at the Thursday shows include math professor Dr. Rick Mabry, who plays drums, biology professor Dr. Steve Banks and physiology graduate student and lab teacher Mick Molloney.

Cover songs at one of these shows include "The World I Know" by Collective Soul, "Shimmer" by Fuel, "15 Stories" by Mighty Joe Plum and "Open Up Your Eyes" by Tonic, as well as jam sessions featuring songs like "Brown-Eyed Girl" and "The Weight."

In addition to playing with D'Armond and the Diver Down performances, Leighton also teaches guitar and bass lessons at The String Shop on Benton Road and fills in as bassist for bands like The Burners and the Dan Sanchez Band.

And if that's not enough, he also does research through LSUS for the Red River Watershed Management Institute.

He's a busy guy, but he still finds time to hang out and goof around with his many "admirers." Those who enjoy a more relaxed musical performance should check out the Diver Down shows on Thursdays.

# Student artists exhibit in U.C.

by Ashley Speckman

The LSUS student art show is on display in the University Center art gallery.

This annual event gives each teacher the opportunity to pick the art that best represents the classes they teach.

The art on display varies from watercolor, sculpture, color theory and design to acrylic, drawing, mix media, digital photography and computer graphics.

A new addition to the show this year was the creation of a one-night sculpture made from fruits and vegetables.

Though the show displays the work of many different artists, it is not a vehicle that allows students to be recognized by the public.

At this point, the art show allows students the opportunity to display their work to their families, friends, professors and peers.

Kevin Gaspard, a junior, has participated in the event twice before.

His favorite piece is a painting titled "Toucans" by junior Levi Montoya.

Also on display in the gallery is a computer graphics piece by Gaspard, which received an Addy.

The Addy, which is an award given by the Shreveport-Bossier Ad Federation, was given for "Fire Bird," a print advertisement for an orchestral piece.

Gaspard was given an orchestra piece and from that designed a poster to advertise it.

The Addy competition involves students from LSUS and Louisiana Tech and gives them the chance to have their work seen by local professionals.

Matthew Wood usually attends the LSUS art shows and always enjoys it.

His favorite pieces were an abstract by Tony Reans and a geisha by Holly Wood.

"The show this year seems more colorful than last year's," Wood said.

He enjoys the art show because it gives him the opportunity to "experience other people's perspective."

Doug Luedeman, past participant and LSUS alumnus 2002, felt that the show was "Wonderful!" Luedeman loves this show because it is "always eclectic and shows a lot of great talent."

The LSUS student art show gives those students not in a creative field the occasion to see what else is going on right under their noses.

# Shreveport Opera Express amazes students

by Jeff-David Gray

Some LSUS students were treated to dinner and a little song and dance. On March 18 the LSUS Port looked more like the perfect place for a first date rather than a place for students to grab a quick snack between classes. Students who stopped in to grab a quick bite found a mini-Broadway revue in progress.

On stage performing was the Shreveport Opera Express, the touring company of The Shreveport Opera. This troupe, which consists of three performers and a piano player, performed one of its four shows of the current season. Other shows include a more classical opera show and shows geared towards small, school-age children.

"The kids really get it because it's just a classic fairytale told with a twist," said Marc-Andre Bougie, SOX's education and chorus director and native Canadian.

This is the company's third year of touring Shreveport-Bossier area schools. However, this is the first time that the troupe has performed on the LSUS campus.

Assistant Professor of Music, Lawanda Blakeney is the LSUS faculty member responsible for the group's performance on campus. Blakeney who sits on the Shreveport Opera board said she thought LSUS students would like the troupe and was "thrilled" that the troupe was interested in coming to perform.

Bougie mentioned that the kid's shows do seem to be more engaging. This is largely due to the sets and costumes used in these performances, Bougie said.

Children are exactly the audience that the troupe would like to reach, as troupe organizers tout this group as an outreach program.

"We're preparing the next generation of opera performers," Bougie said. "When we show at an early age like that it's an overwhelming reaction."

Junior biology major and port employee, Mary Walton, said there are impromptu performances every couple of months but this one, she said, "was a different experience."

The event was not heavily attended by LSUS students. New SGA President-elect Brad Craft says this was likely due to lack of publicity.

"I don't think that there was anyone here who appreciated it," Craft said.

Besides Bougie, the group's performers included Soprano Milagros Cruz of Queens, N.Y., who made her Shreveport Opera debut last season in the production of "Magic Flute." Also performing was newcomer Soprano Christine Edmundson of Baton Rouge, who holds a degree in voice from LSU-Baton Rouge. Rounding out this quartet of performers was Baritone Tom Irwin of New Orleans, who holds an undergraduate degree in voice from the University of New Orleans.

The troupe is nearing completion of another season of performances throughout the greater Shreveport-Bossier area schools. For more information on touring schedules or on requesting a performance contact the Shreveport Opera Express at 318-227-9503.



Photo by Jenny Knaffa  
Milagros Cruz of Queens, N.Y., performs as part of a group from the Shreveport Opera Express at The Port on March 18.



# Pilots on fire in conference play

by Chris Moore  
Sports Editor

The LSUS baseball team rebounded from losing two Gulf Coast Athletic Conference series in a row with two GCAC series wins over Belhaven and Springhill Colleges.

The Pilots swept Belhaven and took two out of three from Springhill to improve their conference record to 17-7. As of April 9, LSUS remained tied for second place with William Carey College in the GCAC; they are trailing nationally ranked Mobile College by a half game.

The Pilots swept Belhaven for the second time this year with 22 runs and 37 hits in a three-game series on March 28-29. In game one, designated hitter Myles Fletcher and shortstop Tyson Arishenkoff each went 3-for-4 to lead LSUS to a 5-1 victory.

Arishenkoff and second baseman Wesley Gray knocked in two runs each, while catcher Aaron McRae had one RBI. Starting pitcher Tony Ferguson scattered 11 hits over nine innings to get the complete game victory for the Pilots. Ferguson gave up only one earned run and struck out five in earning his seventh win of the season.

Game two saw juniors Cole Reynolds and Ben Wingerter each knock in a run with 2-for-3 efforts. Pitcher Gene Stevens tossed seven complete innings to lead the Pilots to the 3-1 win.

Stevens gave up only two hits

## The LSUS Pilots taken by Loyola University

Pilots' line scores for April 12-13 games against Loyola University.

### First game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
LSUS	000	000	020 - 2 5 0
Loyola	000	030	00 - 3 8 2
Win - Schenck. Loss - Ferguson 8-2. Save - Bouterie.			

### Second game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
LSUS	101	000	0 - 2 9 1
Loyola	011	000	1 - 3 7 1
Note: 2 outs, 1 runner(s) LOB when the game ended.			
Win - Western. Loss - Stevens 10-4. Save - Mornick.			

### Third game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
LSUS	202	430	0 - 11 11 2
Loyola	211	060	2 - 12 16 7
Note: 1 out, 2 runner(s) LOB when the game ended.			
Win - Showalter. Loss - Welch 2-4. Save - None.			

### First game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
Springhill	000	000	504-9 11 3
LSUS	001	201	300-7 8 3
Win - Padron. Loss - Ferguson 7-2. Save - Ladkins.			

### Second game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
Springhill	001	000	0 - 1 9 1
LSUS	010	120	- 4 9 1
Win - Stevens 9-3. Loss - Scott. Save - None.			

### Third game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
Springhill	010	011	1 - 4 10 2
LSUS	018	000	- 9 10 2
Win - Ezernack 4-0. Loss - Barras. Save - None.			

and one earned run to get his team-leading eighth win of the year. In the rubber match, LSUS hitters shelled five BC pitchers for 14 runs in only five innings.

Todd Morben, Ben Wingerter and Chase Cox knocked in nine of those runs. Morben and Wingerter both went 3-for-4, while Cox was perfect with two hits in as many tries.

Left-hander Brandon Ezernack pitched all five innings and gave up no earned runs. The freshman struck out four and is now 3-0 on the year.

In the April 4-5 Springhill series, the Pilots dropped game one 9-

### First game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
LSUS	110	201	000-5 14 0
Belhaven	000	010	000-1 11 0
Win - Ferguson 7-1. Loss - Bouchillon. Save - None.			

### Second game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
LSUS	020	001	0 - 3 9 1
Belhaven	000	100	0 - 1 2 0
Win - Stevens 8-3. Loss - McElroy. Save - None.			

### Third game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
LSUS	720	23	- 14 14 1
Belhaven	000	00	- 0 4 4
Win - Ezernack 3-0. Loss - Hearn. Save - None.			

7, but came back to win the next two 4-1 and 9-4. Game one saw the Pilots lose a 4-0 lead in the seventh inning, regain it in the bottom, and lose it again on a last-inning grand slam by Springhill.

In game two, Tyson Arishenkoff drove in two runs with three hits, including a solo home run in the fourth, to give the Pilots the lead for good.

It was Arishenkoff's fifth round tripper of the year. Pilot ace Gene Stevens lowered his ERA to 2.30 with a seven-inning performance that allowed only one earned run. He is now 9-3 for the season.

## Ezernack leads Pilots to win first of double header with Houston Baptist University

by Chris Moore  
Sports Editor

The Pilots split a double header with Houston Baptist University on March 25.

In the first game, freshman Brandon Ezernack pitched superbly, allowing only three earned runs in seven innings of work. Aaron McRae hit his fifth home run of the season—a 3-run shot in the seventh to put the game away.

Thomas McManis hit his GCAC leading ninth homer of the season. McRae and McManis each had three hits and a triple.

In the second game, the Pilots could only manage five hits despite Frank Kowatz's seven innings of strong pitching.

### First game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
LSUS	020	021	3 - 8 10 3
Houston	010	101	0 - 3 6 1
Win - Ezernack 2-0. Loss - Kantz. Save - None.			

### Second game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
LSUS	000	100	0 - 1 5 0
Houston	100	000	1 - 2 8 1
Note: None out, 1 runner(s) LOB when the game ended.			
Win - LeLaurin. Loss - Kowatz 3-1. Save - None.			

## Baseball schedule

April 21 - Northwestern State University 6:30 p.m.

Natchitoches

April 23 - Louisiana College 6:30 p.m. LSUS

April 25 - @University of Mobile 2:00 p.m. Mobile, Ala.

April 26 - @University of Mobile 1:00 p.m. Mobile, Ala.

April 30-May 3 - Gulf Coast Athletic Conference

Tournament (To be announced)

## LSUS shows Paul Quinn College how to score runs in double digits

by Chris Moore  
Sports Editor

LSUS continued to dominate Paul Quinn College with a 35-run/28-hit offensive explosion in a March 31 double header.

Brady Dupree, Thomas McManis and Ben Wingerter all hit home runs in game one.

Dupree struck out twice in one inning in the second, but redeemed himself with a 3-run homer in the sixth. Cole Reynolds was 4-for-5 with an RBI. Wesley Gray, Todd Morben, Aaron McRae and McManis all had two RBIs in the game.

Freshman Tyler Lewis pitched two innings, allowing only one hit and no runs in getting his first win as a Pilot.

Game two saw more of the same as the Pilots scored 5 in the first and 10 in the third to get the easy win.

Dupree hit another 3-run homer in the nightcap, and Lewis followed up a winning pitching

### First game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
LSUS	160	106	0-14 13 0
Paul Quinn	000	005	0-5 7 2
Win - Lewis 1-0. Loss - Calhoun. Save - None.			

### Second game

Score by innings:	R	H	E
LSUS	50(10)	13-19	15 2
Paul Quinn	002	00	- 2 2 4
Win - Kowatz 4-1. Loss - Soto. Save - None.			

performance with a 2-for-4/3 RBI performance at the plate that included a 2-run homer in the third. T.J. Thompson went 3-for-4 with an RBI as eight different Pilots knocked in runs.

Pitcher Frank Kowatz got his fourth win of the year with a four-inning stint that allowed only two hits and no earned runs.

### Sports editor's note:

The Pilots baseball team has improved its nonconference record to 18-6 with five wins and three losses over the last two weeks. LSUS' 35 total wins is the best among Gulf Coast Athletic Conference teams.

For more, visit [www.lsus.edu/baseball](http://www.lsus.edu/baseball)

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# FIGHT MAN (^.^)

## No.11

### Man I love Breakfast Cereal!

by Abe Fashho

Man do I love breakfast cereal. That is the only thing that I think has still remained my most favorite food of my cherished childhood. I mean c'mon, you wake up in the morning, and you feel terrible with this huge throbbing feeling in you're head and butt (by the way that's gas). You wish you could just wake up and feel just great, like life is on your side. It's at that moment that you see what you need. In all its splendor and glory comes the one answer to the morning doldrums, and that my supporting readers is the part of one's balanced breakfast (so to say), the cereal box.

When you see this box you get this huge warm feeling in your belly (that's gas again), and a huge smile erupts on your face that is full of joy and glee. Maybe I'm exaggerating, but I'm describing the way I feel when I eat cereal, and maybe, just maybe some of my readers out there love cereal just like I do. If you wake up to a bad morning, then having a great breakfast will make the start of your day great (damn, I sound like a McDonald's commercial). The main topic of this ode to breakfast cereals is the many different types of cereal. Man, you got the sweet rice cereal (Rice Krispies), grain donuts (Cheerios), sweet oat squares (Captain Crunch), non-apple tasting rings (Apple Jacks), fiber-pumping flakes (Bran Flakes), and well there is the always favorite Fruity Pebbles or Cocoa Pebbles.

With all these choices, who could go wrong? It's like having a gourmet breakfast in bed in a box of sugar. And to top it all off you can get a prize, look at that, you eat and you have an incentive to eat even more. The prizes could be anything from a fancy spoon to a flamethrower, hot damn a flamethrower. The best parts of enjoying your sugar breakfast and prize are the looks of the unlucky ones who did not get to the box, milk, and prize first. The looks of hate and spite develop on their faces and all you can do is take another bite and play with "your" toy. With the finishing of your well deserved breakfast you get up feeling great, you have a new toy to play with (remember you're 22 and you work at the post office), you're bloated (indi-

gestion is a price to pay for a sugar taste in you're mouth in the morning), and you are finally ready to go to work (DAMN! DAMN! DAMN! I HATE GOING TO WORK!).

Now you're at work and while playing with your toy you have just realized that you were the scapegoat character for a lousy article that makes no sense and is not funny at all. Honestly, an article on cereal, I mean cereal could write better than this, really, I've seen it. Frosted Flakes write almost like Ayn Rand. Come on, put your toy down and go eat some cereal. Later, come back to write a whole new article, and one that is a\*\*spanking funny, really funny. I mean you could just sit here all day and write on.....

(....and on this note Abe left to eat cereal thus never finishing the article.)

**TODAY'S LESSON: REMEMBER KIDS TO ALWAYS EAT A WELL BALANCED MEAL OF DOODY PUFFS (COCOA PUFFS) FOR YOUR FIRST MEAL. EVERYBODY LOVES DOODY PUFFS, EVEN MOM AND DAD, WHO, MIGHT WE ADD, HATE BREAKFAST AND YOU! HAPPY EATING!**



## Calendar of events

All events are in the University Center unless otherwise indicated. If your organization would like to be featured in the calendar of events e-mail us at [almagest@pilot.lsus.edu](mailto:almagest@pilot.lsus.edu).

<h1>Calendar of events</h1> <p>All events are in the University Center unless otherwise indicated. If your organization would like to be featured in the calendar of events e-mail us at <a href="mailto:almagest@pilot.lsus.edu">almagest@pilot.lsus.edu</a>.</p>		<b>Thurs. April 17</b> 10:30 a.m. BSA Meeting	<b>Fri. April 18</b> <b>NO CLASSES</b>	<b>Sat. April 19</b> 9 p.m. Crossroads BCM	<b>Sun. April 20</b>	
<b>Mon. April 21</b> 3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. BCM Bible Study Pilots Room  Baseball: @ Northwestern State University (Natchitoches)	<b>Tues. April 22</b> 8 p.m. Worship Service BCM	<b>Wed. April 23</b> 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. LSUS Tour  12 p.m. Lunch & devotional BCM  6 p.m. Viewing of Movie "Next Friday"  7p.m.. - 9 p.m. ZTA meeting Pilots Room  Baseball: @ University of Louisiana-Monroe (Monroe)	<b>Thurs. April 24</b>	<b>Fri. April 25</b> 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Greek Council Meeting  12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. SOC AWARDS CERE- MONY  Baseball: @ University of Mobile (Mobile)  Freshman Focus 3 Deadline	<b>Sat. April 26</b> Baseball: @ University of Mobile (Mobile)  9 p.m. Crossroads BCM	<b>Sun. April 27</b> 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. ZTA Meeting  5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Phi Mu Meeting  7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Sigma Nu Meeting